

# Washington County Community Circles, Inc.

*"Repairing harm to victims, holding clients accountable and building a better community"*

October—2013



## Welcome to Our Newsletter

Our newsletter is being established in order to provide our volunteers and support organizations with information about activities related to WCCC. We encourage you to submit your suggestions and articles that will help us share information throughout the organization. You may contact any board member or submit your suggestions to [editor@peacemakingcircles.org](mailto:editor@peacemakingcircles.org).

## Dedication to Mark G. LaPointe



We would like to dedicate this newsletter to Mark G. LaPointe who passed away in May of this year. Mark's passion and dedication to the peacemaking circle process established the foundation for WCCC. We attribute many of our successful outcomes to his commitment to our organization and the people he served. In advance of the Give to the Max

Day in Minnesota, a special matching grant day (**Veteran's Day - November 11, 2013**) has been established in Mark's memory at <http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Keep-Mark-La-Pointe-S-Vision-Alive>. All donations given on November 11 will be matched, up to \$500.

## Give to the Max Day

On November 14 the annual Give to the Max Day will be held. This is a great opportunity for you to spread the word to your family and friends that WCCC will be part of the many organizations participating. Past years have demonstrated that many people find this as a good opportunity to support non-profits and find it easy to make their contribution. We will be sending out a notice to our email list as a reminder to consider making their contribution. The web site is located at: <http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Washington-County-Community-Circles>.

## WCCC Upcoming Events

Circle Keeper Training

October 25 & 26

2013 Quad School QPIE)

October 29

Give to the Max Day

November 14

## Board Members

Kristina Cochran—Tubman Representative

Kay Longtin—Treasurer

Deborah Muskopf—Member

Judy Nelson—Member

Lynn Schurrer—Secretary

Katie Schurrer—Data Management

Joe Spolidoro—Chairman

Bob Storlie—Vice Chairman

Contact us at

[contact@peacemakingcircles.org](mailto:contact@peacemakingcircles.org)

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[www.peacemakingcircles.org](http://www.peacemakingcircles.org)

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### Circle Keeper Training

We are looking for more Circle Keepers to grow and sustain our communities. We will be conducting Keeper training on October 25 and 26, 2013 at the LaLake Retreat Center in Woodbury. Registration closes this Friday, October 18. See our website at: <http://peacemakingcircles.org/events.htm> for more information.

### Partners in the Community: Tubman

We are fortunate to have a representative of Tubman serving on our board: Kristina Cochran. The following provides a brief overview of their organization. For more information, visit them at [tubman.org](http://tubman.org). Tubman helps women, children and families struggling with relationship violence, substance abuse and mental health. Throughout the Twin Cities, Tubman provides safe shelter, legal services, counseling, youth programming and community education while guiding and sustaining individuals and families on the journey from chaos and fear to healing and restoration.

Tubman is the state's largest provider of domestic violence services, with over 20% of all Minnesota shelter beds for women and children experiencing family violence. The agency offers a full complement of services including family violence shelter and transitional housing; mental and chemical health assessment, treatment, and support; legal services including Orders for Protection; parenting education and child care; youth programs and in-school violence prevention; resource counseling, financial literacy and job readiness education; and community education and professional training. We help more than 40,000 adults and children in Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington Counties and the surrounding area get the support and information they need to reach their full potential for safe, healthy, stable lives.

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### Memorable Quote

"When you become detached mentally from yourself and concentrate on helping other people with their difficulties, you will be able to cope with your own more effectively. Somehow, the act of self-giving is a personal power-releasing factor."

~Norman Vincent Peale

### WCCC, Inc.—Facts

- Started in 1998 with Cottage Grove and then Stillwater. Woodbury began in 2006.
- Number of Volunteers—60 active members
- Over the past 15 years there have 96 cases with an average length of 13 months per case.
- Almost two-thirds (64%) of Sentencing Circle participants successfully complete the process.

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### Honoring Our Volunteers

Earlier this year we had the opportunity to celebrate our 15th year of service to Washington County and recognize many of our volunteers.

With the kind support of Thrivent Community—Landmark, StoneRidge Golf Club and Target, 45 volunteers and their guests were invited to the recognition event. In addition local judges, prosecutors, defenders, law enforcement officials and victim advocates attended.

During the evening each volunteer was introduced and former clients of the circle process were able to relate to the group the experience they had and how it helped in reshaping their lives.

Washington County District Court Judge Gary Schurrer made the keynote address and reinforced that the process has been proven to work over the years and emphasized that “It can only be done by people helping people”.

Todd Gillingham representing the Thrivent Community—Landmark group commented at the end of the evening that “Being involved in a circle actively listening and giving of your own self to help re-direct a life is remarkably generous gift”.



Volunteers Recognized from Cottage Grove, Stillwater and Woodbury

### 2013 Quad School Public Interest Expo (QPIE)

On Tuesday, October 29, 2013 the career fair will be held at the William Mitchell College of Law. The Expo is an excellent chance for law students to learn about volunteer and employment opportunities in the public interest community, and specifically in restorative justice and with WCCC. We hope to see you there!

### Minnesota Justice Foundation Volunteers

A number of law students have volunteered their time with WCCC through the Minnesota Justice Foundation over the past few years. Each semester WCCC places several students in Cottage Grove, Stillwater, and Woodbury as volunteers in the Sentencing Circle process. If you are interested in learning more about this partnership, email [contact@peacemakingcircles.org](mailto:contact@peacemakingcircles.org).

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